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Church shooting stuns Texas town

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HOUSTON CHRONICLE

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Marie D. DeJesus / Houston Chronicle

Above: Houston aerosol artist Gonzo247 works on re-creating Leo Tanguma's historic "The Rebirth of Our Nationality" mural on Canal Street. Below: "The Rebirth of Our Nationality" was painted by Tanguma and collaborators at the site in 1973.

RE-CREATING A MASTERPIECE

$70K restoration of iconic East End mural brings faded artist/activist back to fore

By Molly Glentzer

DENVER — Leo Tanguma is in no hurry to return to the city that holds his ultimate achievement.

He has had plenty of time to rethink all that happened decades ago, when he painted "The Rebirth of Our Nationality" on the facade of a factory along a desolate, industrial stretch of Canal Street in Houston's East End.

Houston Chronicle file

One of the largest works of America's Chicano mural movement, the piece had become so faded in 30 years that it was barely visible when Harris County bought the property in 2013.

County officials committed $70,000 to re-creating the mural as part of an $8 million renovation. Tanguma, though, declined to repaint it himself. At 75, he no longer can climb scaffolding.

Instead, he is directing the project from a basement studio at his home in the leafy Denver suburb of Arvada, with the aerosol artist Gonzo247 serving as his "hands" on the job.

They are an unlikely father-son pair — the almost forgotten, rabble-rousing radical who sees painting as a political protest, and the popular former tagger whose own recent images shower urban buildings with happiness and sunshine.

Tanguma chose Gonzo, whose real name is Mario Figueroa Jr., from a list of candidates to re-create the mural be-

Mural continues on A9

GOP exits lift Dems' hopes

But Republicans reject notion of power swing to the left in Congress

By Kevin Diaz and Mike Ward

WASHINGTON — Moments before the polls closed in Virginia's Democratic sweep, Houston-area Republican Ted Poe, across the Potomac River on Capitol Hill, announced his retirement in 2018 after 14 years in Congress.

Poe cast his move Tuesday night as a personal decision: "You know when it's time to go," he told the Chronicle. "And it's time to go, and go back to Texas on a full-time basis."

Poe

But a wave of retirement announcements from Texas Republicans in both Congress and the Legislature already had sparked a lot of speculation that the pendulum of power might swing against the GOP, even possibly to some degree in a deep red state like Texas.

Poe and other Republicans dismissed that notion, arguing that

Democrats continues on A13

For Houston, stakes high in Saudi turmoil

Crown prince's purge could mean boom or bust for energy sector

By Jordan Blum and Collin Eaton

Saudi Arabia is undergoing revolutionary change with the sudden arrests of the princes and top ministers, triggering uncertainty in the Middle East, global oil markets and here in Houston, where the energy industry's ties to the kingdom are deep and long, stretching back for decades.

Whether the purge by 32-year-old Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman sparks a civil war, ignites an armed conflict with Iran or peacefully drags the conservative Islamic regime into the modern world could have huge implications for Houston and its economy, beyond its impact on oil prices. Saudi Arabia is not only a major market for some of the region's biggest employers, including energy services companies Schlumberger, Halliburton and Baker Hughes, but also a large and growing investor in the Texas Gulf Coast as it seeks to diversify

Saudi continues on A30

At churches, safety concerns intrude

After mass shooting, faith leaders balance being gracious, cautious

By Emily Foxhall and Monica Rhor

The congregation of about 220 people at River Bend Baptist Church in Fulshear would have been nearing the end of Sunday service when the shots rang out 150 miles away at First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs.

Senior Pastor John Crowe learned only later that evening what had occurred: A lone shooter. A car chase. Twenty-six parishioners left dead.

A scene of horror that had unfolded in a sacred space, not unlike the one where Crowe preaches.

Places of worship have known violence before. And conversations about security have been ongoing for years in many, including Crowe's, where volunteers help patrol with walkie-talkies and a police officer is always on site. But the Sutherland Springs attack came as an unavoidable reminder that mass shootings remain part of today's culture, a threat that does not disappear even in a religious

Church continues on A13

Bob Owen / San Antonio Express-News

Family members on Friday mourn Karen and Robert Scott Marshall, two of the 26 victims of the massacre at First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs.

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